Christmas Puzzles

Colorful Holiday theme designs work well as children's puzzles or as decorative wall plaques. The backing is half inch lumber and the artwork is shaped by scrollsaw.

Our children have spent many hours playing with the puzzles and enjoying sharing the Christmas themes and stories with their friends. They have especially liked the puzzles that they decorated themselves. The scroll sawn pieces are easily sanded and finished in solid colors by the youngest crafters.

Make a xerox copy of the pattern you want to make before beginning construction. We find it is best to use a removable spray mount adhesive sprayed onto the back of the xerox pattern.You can then press the pattern onto the wood where it can be used as a guide. Individual puzzle parts are scroll sawn from 1/4" or 1/2" material.

A successful method of making the plaques is to first cut the 1/2" backing board (10" x 15") that the puzzle is built upon. The outside 1/2" framework of the puzzle is then glued permanently to the backboard. The framework helps keep the puzzle pieces in place as the puzzle is assembled during playtime.

Try the traditional color approach, or experiment with monochromatic and pastel combinations. Children like to add glitter to the puzzle surface. This can be done by painting on a clearcoat of polyurethane, then sprinkling on the glitter into the still wet suface. A second coat of clear over the glitter makes a safe and durable play surface.